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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FO; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR  
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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: JUNE 1, 2005 (1800 HOURS LOCAL) --  
PALESTINIAN SHOT BY ISRAELI SETTLER IN THE WEST BANK, FATAH  
AND HAMAS AGREE TO DELAY ELECTIONS FOR SEVERAL  
MUNICIPALITIES IN THE GAZA STRIP

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

11. (SBU) Summary: In the West Bank, an Israeli settler shot and wounded a Palestinian near Itamar settlement, near Nablus, May 31. In al-Fraides village, near Bethlehem, three Palestinians were assaulted by Israeli settlers May 31. Five Fatah and six Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) members were arrested by the IDF in different areas of the West Bank May 31. Five Palestinian and foreign peace activists were arrested May 31 in Bil'in village, near Ramallah, during a rally to protest the construction of the separation barrier in the area. According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, the Jerusalem municipality plans to demolish 88 Palestinian-owned houses in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan to create space for a national park. Up to 1,000 Palestinian residents of Silwan could be affected if the demolitions take place. In the Gaza Strip, according to UNRWA and media sources, Fatah and Hamas agreed May 31 to delay repeat elections for several municipalities in Gaza. End Summary.

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West Bank  
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12. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to the Palestinian and Israeli media, an Israeli settler shot and wounded a Palestinian near Itamar settlement, near Nablus, May 31. The settler was arrested by Israeli police, and said he opened fire when he saw the Palestinian youth was setting fire to a field next to the settlement. The settler claimed that he attempted to stop the Palestinian from doing so, but the latter pulled out a knife and attempted to attack him. Palestinian sources reported that the wounded Palestinian, Yusif Bani Fadel, is mentally handicapped.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian sources, in al-Fraides village, near Bethlehem, three Palestinians were assaulted by Israeli settlers May 31. The three suffered light to moderate injuries.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian sources, a Palestinian youth was attacked and lightly injured by settlers in the Old City of Hebron, May 31.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF troops entered Nablus and arrested two Fatah activists May 31. Palestinian gunmen opened fire at the IDF during the arrest operation, but no injuries were reported.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF troops arrested three members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in Deir al-Ghusun village, near Tulkarm, May 31.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, the IDF arrested three PIJ members in Beitunia village, near Ramallah, May 31. Palestinian youths threw stones at IDF soldiers, but no injuries were reported. The three arrested were identified as Labib and Samir Barghuti from Ramallah, and Mohammad Radad, a prominent PIJ member from Saida village, near Tulkarm.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, the IDF entered Dura village, near Hebron and arrested three members of Fatah, May 31. IDF soldiers set up an observation post on the roof of a house at the entrance to Dura village.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, five Palestinian and foreign peace activists were arrested May 31 in Bil'in village, near Ramallah, during a rally to protest the construction of the separation barrier in this area.

13. (SBU) CLOSURES

-- According to Palestinian sources, on May 31, the IDF set up a metal gate at the entrance to al-Khadr village, near Bethlehem, which they claim blocks access to the main road from the village. According to Israeli sources, the new gate will allow for periodic access to al-Khadr, which has been blocked by a dirt berm for several years. The IDF dirt roadblock remains.

-- According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, the Jerusalem municipality plans to demolish 88 Palestinian-owned houses, reportedly for lack of building permits, in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, to create space for a national park. Up to 1,000 Palestinian residents of Silwan could be affected if the demolitions take place.

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Gaza  
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#### 14. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Clashes: Nil.

-- Shooting: The IDF reported a shooting May 31 north of the Rafah crossing. No injuries were reported.

-- Shooting/Injury: The IDF reported that its troops initiated a shooting May 31 near an IDF outpost south of the Katif village in which, according to Palestinian claims, one Palestinian was injured.

-- Shooting: Palestinians shot at Israeli vehicles near Netzarim May 31, according to the IDF.

-- Shooting: The IDF reported that a shooting occurred near an IDF outpost south of Rafah in the early morning of June 1 in which IDF soldiers were targeted. No injuries were reported.

-- Mortars/rockets: Two mortars were fired at Israeli targets in the vicinity of Khan Younis in the early morning of June 1, according to the IDF.

-- Explosions: Nil.

#### 15. (SBU) ARRESTS: Nil.

#### 16. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

#### 17. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS:

-- Route Four (Salah Ed-Din Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open June 1, but closed at Netzarim junction. The coastal road was open.

-- The Erez Crossing was open to internationals, diplomats, and Palestinian laborers May 31. According to UNRWA, 3,832 laborers and 346 merchants crossed into Israel May 31.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open May 31. According to UNRWA, 600 Palestinian laborers entered the zone May 31.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for laborers, but open for aggregates used in construction June 1.

-- Karni Terminal was open for the import and export of materials June 1.

-- Rafah Terminal was open without restrictions June 1.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed, and Toufa checkpoint was open with restrictions on males age 16-30, June 1.

#### 18. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- According to UNRWA and media sources, Fatah and Hamas agreed May 31 to delay repeat elections for several municipalities in Gaza.  
Connelly